

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

ADAM JULIUS GRAHAM, #313269,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:18-CV-888-WKW
)
BILLY McCLOUD, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Adam Julius Graham, a state inmate incarcerated at the Ventress Correctional Facility, filed this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action on October 16, 2018. In this complaint, Graham challenges actions which occurred on November 26, 2017 during his prior incarceration at the Coffee County Jail.

Upon review of the financial information submitted by Graham, the court issued an order that he “file a prison account statement from the account clerk at Ventress showing the average monthly balance in his prison account for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of this complaint and the average monthly deposits to his account during the past six months.” Doc. 3 at 1–2. The Clerk mailed a copy of this order to Graham at Ventress – the last address he provided for service. The postal service returned this order as undeliverable because Graham is not currently confined at Ventress.¹ Based on the foregoing, the court entered an order requiring “that on or before December 5, 2018 Graham shall file with the court a current address and/or show

¹A search of the inmate database hosted at www.doc.state.al.us/InmateInfo establishes that Graham is no longer incarcerated within the custody of the Alabama Department of Corrections.

cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to adequately prosecute this action.” Doc. 4. The order specifically advised Graham that this case could not properly proceed if his whereabouts remained unknown and cautioned him that his failure to comply with its directives would result in the dismissal of this case. Doc. 4. As of the present date, the court has received no response from Graham to the aforementioned order nor has he provided the court with his current address as is necessary to proceed before this court. Under these circumstances, the court finds that dismissal of this case is warranted.

In accordance with Eleventh Circuit law, the court has reviewed the file to determine whether a less drastic measure than dismissal is appropriate. *See Abreu-Velez v. Board of Regents of Univ. System of Georgia*, 248 F. App’x 116, 117–18 (11th Cir. 2007). After such review, the court finds that dismissal of this case is the proper course of action. Initially, based on the limited financial information provided by Graham, *see Doc. 2*, the court finds that the imposition of monetary or other punitive sanctions against Graham would be ineffectual. It likewise appears that Graham is no longer interested in the prosecution of this case due to his release from incarceration and any additional effort to secure his compliance would be unavailing and a waste of this court’s scarce resources. Finally, this case cannot properly proceed when Graham’s whereabouts are unknown.

Accordingly, the court concludes that this case is due to be dismissed. *See Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that, as a general rule, where a

litigant has been forewarned, dismissal for failure to obey a court order is not an abuse of discretion.). The authority of courts to impose sanctions for failure to prosecute or obey an order is longstanding and acknowledged by Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962). “The district court possesses the inherent power to police its docket.” *Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla.*, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989). This authority empowers the courts “to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.” *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630–31. “The sanctions imposed [upon dilatory litigants] can range from a simple reprimand to an order dismissing the action with or without prejudice.” *Mingo*, 864 F.2d at 102.

For the above stated reasons, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be dismissed without prejudice.

On or before **December 21, 2018** the plaintiff may file objections to the Recommendation. The plaintiff must specifically identify the factual findings and legal conclusions in the Recommendation to which the objection is made. Frivolous, conclusive, or general objections to the Recommendation will not be considered.

Failure to file written objections to the Magistrate Judge’s findings and recommendations in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) shall bar the plaintiff from a de novo determination by the District Court of legal and factual issues covered in the Recommendation and waives the right of the party to challenge on appeal the District Court’s order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions accepted

or adopted by the District Court except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice.
11TH Cir. R. 3-1; *see Resolution Trust Co. v. Hallmark Builders, Inc.*, 996 F.2d 1144, 1149 (11th Cir. 1993); *Henley v. Johnson*, 885 F.2d 790, 794 (11th Cir. 1989).

DONE this 7th day of December, 2018.

/s/ Charles S. Coody
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE